

PRESIDENT: The bill is advanced. LB 682.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 682 was a bill introduced by Senator Ralph Kelly of the 35th District and Senator Steve Fowler of the 27th District. Title read. The bill was first read on January 6, 1978. It was referred to the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee. The bill was advanced to General File, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Ralph Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: It is an interesting coalition, I will admit, after the child care bill. Senator Kelly, really, it is too bad that he is unable to be here this afternoon because he feels very strongly about this proposal. You may recall that when he ran for Speaker of the Legislature one of the concerns that he had was that there had not been enough done within the State of Nebraska to talk about the concept of the Unicameral Legislature and Senator Kelly felt that we should do something to try and start collecting the information and encouraging the study of this unique system that we have. I visited with Senator Kelly about it last year and told him that I thought, although he didn't get to be Speaker, that that didn't mean that he shouldn't continue to pursue this idea and he and I visited with Jack Rodgers, the Director of our Research Office, about a similar type thing. We asked Dr. Rodgers to develop some sort of proposal, some sort of way to outline the specific responsibilities for a research function so that we could keep track of and come to know the information that has been collected about the Unicameral system and that is how this bill was developed. Dr. Rodgers has evaluated it and believes at least in its first couple of years it would have no fiscal impact. After that, it would really be up to this Legislature as to how much it wants to do. It is the type of thing that could do studies about the Unicameral system, collect and catalogue information, perhaps do workshops and so on. I think many of us when we have visited other states and visited with other legislators have been asked questions about the Unicameral. Several states have considered it. Several bills have been introduced. I have always felt deficient in that I could only give kind of a surface opinion. Well, I like it, you know, I don't see the need for another House or anything like that. But any sort of quality studies, any sort of cataloguing of information is not available and this is the goal of this bill. As a unique institution in our country, I think we have a special responsibility to try and collect and develop the sort of information that other states can use and look at when they consider the possibility of a Unicameral system. As I said, Senator Kelly feels very strongly about this bill and I wish he'd been here to present it as well but it is lined up to try and develop research that could be used to help this state and other states evaluate the Unicameral system. I'd move it be advanced.

PRESIDENT: Senator Luedtke.

SENATOR LUEDTKE: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I just want it be made very clear that, Senator Fowler mentioned that this was in the Speaker's race, when I announced that I wanted to be Speaker, I mentioned the image of the